

Pro Se 1 2022

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

SARAI FLORES,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

STATE OF WASHINGTON,  
WASHINGTON STATE  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE  
COURTS, SUPERIOR COURT OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY OF PIERCE,

Defendant(s).

CASE NO. 3:22-cv-06000-TL  
{to be filled in by Clerk's Office}

**COMPLAINT FOR A CIVIL CASE**

Jury Trial:  Yes  No

**I. THE PARTIES TO THIS COMPLAINT**

A. Plaintiff(s)

*Provide the information below for each plaintiff named in the complaint. Attach additional pages if needed.*

Name	Sarai Flores
Street Address	233 E. Southern Ave #26804
City and County	Tempe, Maricopa County
State and Zip Code	Arizona 85285
Telephone Number	602-218-1404

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## 1 B. Defendant(s)

2       Provide the information below for each defendant named in the complaint, whether the  
 3 defendant is an individual, a government agency, an organization, or a corporation. For an  
 4 individual defendant, include the person's job or title (if known). Attach additional pages if  
 5 needed.

## 6       Defendant No. 1

Name	STATE OF WASHINGTON
Job or Title (if known)	
Street Address	1125 Washington Street SE PO Box 40100
City and County	Olympia, Thurston County
State and Zip Code	Washington 98504-0100
Telephone Number	(360) 753-2727

## 7       Defendant No. 2

Name	WASHINGTON STATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
Job or Title (if known)	
Street Address	1112 Quince St SE
City and County	Olympia, Thurston
State and Zip Code	Washington 98501
Telephone Number	360-753-3365

## 8       Defendant No. 3

Name	SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF PIERCE
Job or Title (if known)	
Street Address	930 Tacoma Ave S #334
City and County	Tacoma, Pierce County
State and Zip Code	98402
Telephone Number	253-798-3654

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1           Defendant No. 4

2           Name \_\_\_\_\_

3           Job or Title (*if known*) \_\_\_\_\_

4           Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

5           City and County \_\_\_\_\_

6           State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

7           Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

8           **II. BASIS FOR JURISDICTION**

9           Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction (limited power). Generally, only two  
10          types of cases can be heard in federal court: cases involving a federal question and cases  
11          involving diversity of citizenship of the parties. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, a case arising under  
12          the United States Constitution or federal laws or treaties is a federal question case. Under 28  
13          U.S.C. § 1332, a case in which a citizen of one State sues a citizen of another State or nation and  
14          the amount at stake is more than \$75,000 is a diversity of citizenship case. In a diversity of  
15          citizenship case, no defendant may be a citizen of the same State as any plaintiff.

16          What is the basis for federal court jurisdiction? (*select all that apply*)

17           Federal question:

18           If checked complete section A.

17           Diversity of citizenship:

18           If checked complete section B.

19          Fill out the paragraphs in this section that apply to this case.

20          A. If the Basis for Jurisdiction Is a Federal Question

21          List the specific federal statutes, federal treaties, and/or provisions of the United States  
22          Constitution that are at issue in this case.

- 23          1. This is an action under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), 42  
24           U.S.C. § 12131 et seq., and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.

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### 1           III. STATEMENT OF CLAIM

2       *Write a short and plain statement of the claim. Do not make legal arguments. State as briefly as  
3       possible the facts showing that each plaintiff is entitled to the damages or other relief sought.  
4       State how each defendant was involved and what each defendant did that caused the plaintiff  
5       harm or violated the plaintiff's rights, including the dates and places of that involvement or  
6       conduct. If more than one claim is asserted, number each claim and write a short and plain  
7       statement of each claim in a separate paragraph. Attach additional pages if needed.*

- 1       1. Plaintiff is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA and the Rehabilitation  
2       Act. Plaintiff has cognitive disabilities and psychiatric disabilities that significantly  
3       impact her ability to communicate, and participate in legal proceedings while  
4       experiencing emotional distress. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all  
5       others similarly situated people.
- 6       2. Defendant WASHINGTON STATE is a state government entity that operates the court  
7       system in WASHINGTON STATE. Defendant WASHINGTON STATE  
8       ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS is a state administrative office  
9       responsible for the operation and management of the court system in WASHINGTON  
10      STATE. Defendant SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF PIERCE is  
11      a state court that is part of the WASHINGTON STATE court system and is responsible  
12      for hearing cases in PIERCE COUNTY.
- 13      3. On March 3, 2022, the plaintiff requested accommodations for her court proceedings due  
14      to her cognitive and psychiatric disabilities. The request was sent to the deputy court  
15      administrator, Dea Finigan, and a copy was also sent to the Commissioner, Terri Farmer.  
16      The request was denied on the same day via a phone call with Dea Finigan.
- 17      4. On March 4, 2022, the plaintiff again requested accommodations for the next hearing.
- 18      5. On March 9, 2022, the accommodation request was officially granted [in part] and denied  
19      in part.
- 20      6. The court denied the plaintiff's request for an appointment of counsel.

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- 1      7. Although the court granted some additional accommodation requests [in part] those
- 2      requests were constructively denied due to the failure of the court's accommodation
- 3      request procedures and protocol.
- 4      8. The court's procedure of simply placing the accommodation request in the court file did
- 5      not adequately accommodate the plaintiff resulting in the constructive denial of all the
- 6      requested accommodation requests.
- 7      9. During two separate hearings, there was no mention of the accommodations that had been
- 8      requested.
- 9      10. WASHINGTON STATE and the WASHINGTON STATE ADMINISTRATIVE
- 10     OFFICE OF THE COURTS have failed to properly educate and train PIERCE COUNTY
- 11     SUPERIOR COURT on cognitive and psychiatric disabilities.
- 12     11. This has resulted in PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT failing to provide
- 13     reasonable modifications or accommodations to the plaintiff.
- 14     12. In addition, defendants have failed to properly educate and train courts on the needs and
- 15     accommodations required for individuals with cognitive and psychiatric disabilities. As a
- 16     result, judges and court staff are unaware of the necessary accommodations and
- 17     modifications that should be provided to such individuals.
- 18     13. As a result of defendants' failure to provide reasonable modifications or accommodations
- 19     and to properly educate and train courts on cognitive and psychiatric disabilities, plaintiff
- 20     and other individuals with such disabilities have been denied equal access to the PIERCE
- 21     COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT system and have been subjected to discrimination and
- 22     unequal treatment.

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1       14. Individuals with cognitive and psychiatric disabilities may require the appointment of  
2       counsel to ensure effective representation in court proceedings. However, the defendants  
3       have denied the plaintiff's request for a court-appointed attorney, despite the fact that her  
4       disabilities significantly impact her ability to represent herself.

5       15. Further, the nuances of ongoing complex civil litigation continue to cause the plaintiff  
6       debilitating emotional distress, physical distress, and anxiety due to her disabilities.

7

8                  **IV. RELIEF**

9       *State briefly and precisely what damages or other relief the plaintiff asks the court to order. Do*  
10      *not make legal arguments. Include any basis for claiming that the wrongs alleged are continuing*  
11      *at the present time. Include the amounts of any actual damages claimed for the acts alleged and*  
12      *the basis for these amounts. Include any punitive or exemplary damages claimed, the amounts,*  
13      *and the reasons you claim you are entitled to actual or punitive money damages.*

14       The plaintiff requests that the court issue a declaratory judgment stating that the  
15      defendant's failure to provide reasonable accommodations to the plaintiff and other individuals  
16      with disabilities, including cognitive and psychiatric disabilities, in civil cases violates the  
17      Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act, and that these violations are  
18      ongoing. The plaintiff also requests that the court issue an injunction ordering the defendant to  
19      provide reasonable accommodations, including the appointment of an attorney for the plaintiff  
20      and other individuals with disabilities, including cognitive and psychiatric disabilities, in civil  
21      cases. Additionally, the plaintiff requests that the court order the defendants to provide education  
22      and training to courts to stop the discrimination against individuals with cognitive and  
23      psychiatric disabilities. The plaintiff also seeks damages for emotional distress and other  
24      damages as a result of the defendant's failure to provide reasonable accommodations, as well as  
    costs and attorneys' fees. Finally, the plaintiff requests that the court grant such other and further  
    relief as the court may deem just and proper.

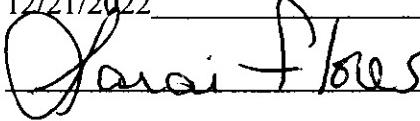
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1  
2           **V. CERTIFICATION AND CLOSING**

3           Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11, by signing below, I certify to the best of my  
4 knowledge, information, and belief that this complaint: (1) is not being presented for an improper  
5 purpose, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation;  
6 (2) is supported by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or  
7 reversing existing law; (3) the factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so  
8 identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further  
9 investigation or discovery; and (4) the complaint otherwise complies with the requirements of  
10 Rule 11.

11           I agree to provide the Clerk's Office with any changes to my address where case-related  
12 papers may be served. I understand that my failure to keep a current address on file with the  
13 Clerk's Office may result in the dismissal of my case.

14           Date of signing:                   12/21/2022

15           Signature of Plaintiff           

16           Printed Name of Plaintiff    SARAI FLORES

18           Date of signing:

19           Signature of Plaintiff

20           Printed Name of Plaintiff

22           Date of signing:

23           Signature of Plaintiff

24           Printed Name of Plaintiff